

CHARLES W. HOFFMAN.

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JANUARY 26, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. LUCKING, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 3910.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3910) granting an increase of pension to Charles W. Hoffman, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of the soldier named therein from \$17 to \$50 per month.

Charles W. Hoffman, now 65 years of age, served as sergeant in Company E, One hundred and fourth Pennsylvania Infantry, from September 12, 1861, to September 30, 1864, when honorably discharged.

The medical records of the War Department show that while in the service he was under treatment for debility, typhoid fever, and diphtheria.

He applied for pension under the general law in May, 1886, on account of rheumatism and resulting disease of heart, and was pensioned in 1887 for said disabilities at \$8 per month from the date of the filing of his claim, and was increased to \$17 per month on June 20, 1892, from January 20, 1892, since which time the soldier has never applied for increase of pension in the Pension Bureau.

When last examined, on January 20, 1892, the board of surgeons rated him \$10 for rheumatism, \$5 for disease of heart, and \$4 for disease of liver and spleen.

The statement of the beneficiary, dated February, 1898, and filed with your committee in the Fifty-sixth Congress, sets forth that he also acted as spy and scout during his military service; that he is pensioned at \$17 per month for rheumatism and disease of heart, the highest rate allowed for such disability; that he has no other pensionable status before the Pension Bureau; that he is now a physical wreck; that his eyesight is failing very fast; that he has a family of four children dependent upon him for support; that he is unable at times to follow his trade, and that he believes that he is entitled to an increase of his pension.

The affidavit of Doctor Burchfield, dated December, 1899, and also filed with your committee in the Fifty-sixth Congress, sets forth that the soldier was then suffering from chronic articular and muscular rheumatism affecting the upper and lower extremities, that the joints are swollen and motion difficult and painful, that the heart was organically diseased, that the vision of his left eye was almost lost, and that it was with difficulty that he ascends a flight of stairs or walks any distance.

A number of letters filed with your committee set forth that the beneficiary is in dependent financial circumstances.

In view of the soldier's faithful service of three years, his destitution, his disabilities of accepted service origin, and the fact that he is almost blind in one eye an increase of his pension from \$17 to \$24 per month appears warranted.

The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass after the same shall have been amended as follows:

In line 8 strike out the word "fifty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "twenty-four."

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